

House Resolution No. 4148

Whereas, it is with special pleasure that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize Tara Shaw Sparks, an esteemed resident of St. Louis, Missouri, who has distinguished herself as the 2003-2004 Missouri Teacher of the Year; and

Whereas, Tara Sparks has played an integral role in the educational development of countless Missouri youngsters as an eighth-grade English Teacher at Robert H. Sperreng Middle School in the Lindbergh School District, during which time she has provided learning opportunities to her students through variety, technology, and innovation; and

Whereas, Tara Sparks utilizes higher-level thinking and discussions skills with her students and incorporates service-learning activities to increase student achievement; and

Whereas, a stellar educator who views reflection as one of her most important skills, Tara Sparks is committed to philanthropy and volunteerism, and encourages her students to participate in projects involving learning opportunities, volunteer experiences, and fundraisers for charitable organizations including Habitat for Humanity and the American Red Cross; and

Whereas, listed in Who's Who Among American Teachers, Tara Sparks is exceedingly proud of her active affiliation with such important education organizations as the MNEA, MMSA, and the NMSA; and

Whereas, a Disney Teacher nominee, Tara Sparks is a worthy recipient of countless awards and honors including the Horace Mann Scholarship and the Lindbergh School District Teacher of the Year award; and

Whereas, Tara Sparks has been abundantly blessed with the love and admiration of a wonderful family whose members include her devoted husband, Christopher Sparks, and her parents, Gail Muckey and Roger Shaw (deceased):

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most hearty congratulations to Tara Sparks upon her receipt of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education 2003-2004 Teacher of the Year award, and in wishing her only the very best of success in all her future endeavors; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Tara Shaw Sparks.

Offered by _____
Representative Jim Avery
District No. 95

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4148, adopted September 24, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker